WIKISPECIES
free species directory

Welcome to Wikispecies

The free species directory that anyone can edit.

It covers Animalia, Plantae, Fungi, Bacteria, Archaea, Protista and all other forms of life.

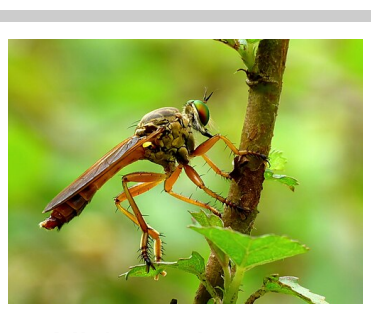
So far we have **958,305** entries.

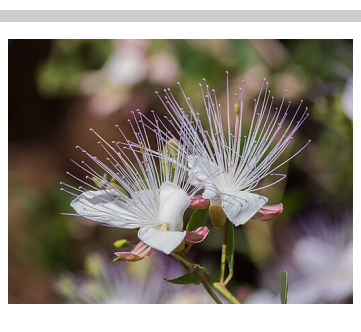
Wikispecies is free, because life is in the public domain!

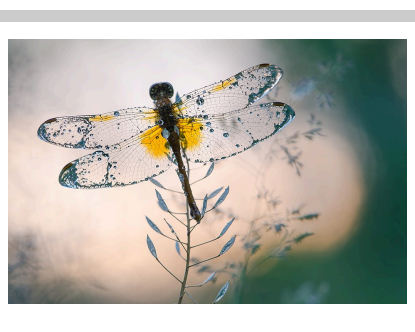
You can also check us out on X (formerly Twitter): @Wikispecies (https://twitter.com/Wikispecies)
or use the Android app (https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.kiwix.kiwixcustomwikispecies) sponsored by Wikimedia.

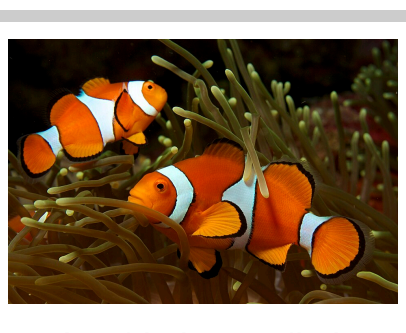
Taxon Navigation

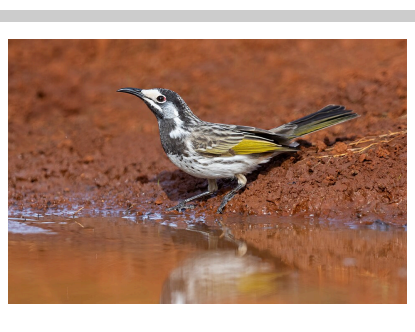
- Dominium Archaea
- Dominium Bacteria
- Dominium Eukaryota
  - Regnum Protista
  - Regnum Fungi
  - Regnum Plantae
  - Regnum Animalia
- Virus (classification still unclear)

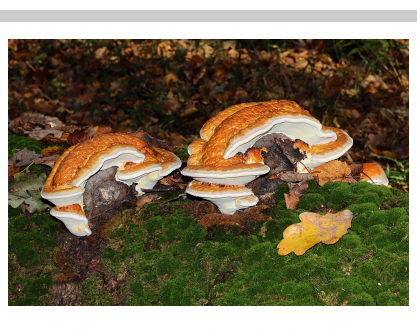

Michotamia aurata

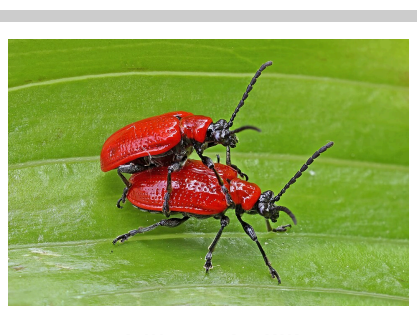

Capparis spinosa


Sympetrum flaveolum


Amphiprion ocellaris


Purnella albifrons


Fomitopsis pinicola


Lilioceris lilii

Explore Wikispecies

- **HELP Section** – Detailed information on creating pages.
- **Taxonomy** – Information on the Linnaean classification of species.
- **Village Pump** – Discuss the project.
- **Done and To Do** – See references to very detailed areas and defined future targets
- **Wikispecies FAQ** – Check replies to common concerns.
- **Image Guidelines** – Our recommendation on where to upload illustrations
- **Wikispecies PR** – Help us by spreading the word of Wikispecies

Collaboration with ZooKeys

A **collaboration** between Wikispecies and ZooKeys (https://zookeys.pensoft.net/) has been announced. PhytoKeys (https://phytokeys.pensoft.net/) also joined the collaboration in November 2010. Images of species from ZooKeys and PhytoKeys will be uploaded to Wikimedia Commons and used in Wikispecies.

Distinguished author

Mary Agnes Chase
1869–1963. Standard IPNI form: **Chase**

Mary Agnes Chase, née Merrill, was an American botanist who worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Smithsonian Institution. She is considered one of the world's outstanding agrostologists and is known for her work on the study of grasses, and also for her work as a suffragist. Chase was born in Iroquois County, Illinois and held no formal education beyond grammar school. That aside, she made significant contributions to the field of botany, authored over 70 scientific publications, and was conferred with an honorary doctorate in science from the University of Illinois. She specialized in the study of grasses and conducted extensive field work in North- as well as and South America. Her Smithsonian Field Books collection from 1897 to 1959 is archived in the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

In 1901, Chase became a botanical assistant at the Field Museum of Natural History under Charles Frederick Millspaugh, where her work was featured in two museum publications: *Plantae Utowanae* (1900) and *Plantae Yucatanae* (1904). Two years later, Chase joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a botanical illustrator and eventually became a scientific assistant in systematic agrostology (1907), assistant botanist (1923), and associate botanist (1925), all under Albert Spear Hitchcock. Chase worked with Hitchcock for almost twenty years, collaborating closely and also publishing, for instance *The North American Species of Panicum* (1910).

Following Hitchcock's death in 1936, Chase succeeded him to become senior botanist in charge of systematic agrostology and custodian of the Section of Grasses, Division of Plants at the United States National Museum (USNM). Chase retired from the USDA in 1939, but continued her work as custodian of the USNM grass herbarium until her death in 1963. She was an Honorary Fellow of the Smithsonian Institution (1959) and Fellow of the Linnean Society of London (1961). *Agnesia* is named in her honour (a monotypic genus of herbaceous South American bamboo in the grass family).

Chase experienced discrimination based on her gender in the scientific field, for example, being excluded from expeditions to Panama in 1911 and 1912 because the expedition's benefactors feared the presence of women researchers would distract men. During World War I, Chase marched with Alice Paul and was jailed several times for her activities. In 1918, she was arrested at the Silent Sentinels rally picketing the White House; she refused bail and was held for 10 days, where she instigated a hunger-strike and was force-fed. The USDA accused her of "conduct unbecoming a government employee," but Hitchcock helped her keep her job. Chase was also an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

See also: Distinguished authors of previous months.

Species of the month

Island Fox

Urocyon littoralis (BAIRD, 1857)

Some facts about this small caniform carnivoran:

- **Size**: The Island Fox is the smallest fox in North America, significantly smaller than the Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*, i.e. the only other member of the *Urocyon* genus). It is also slightly smaller than the Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*) and Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis*). Typically, the head-and-body length is 48–50 cm (19–19.5 in), shoulder height 12–15 cm (4.5–6 in). The tail is 11–29 cm (4.5–11.5 in) long, which is notably shorter than the 27–44 cm (10.5–17.5 in) tail of the Gray Fox.
- **Distribution**: Contrary to the widely spread mainland Gray Fox, this species is endemic to six of the eight Channel Islands of California, United States.
- **Protection status**: IUCN: (https://www.iucnredlist.org) *Urocyon littoralis* (BAIRD, 1857) (https://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22781/0) (Near Threatened). Last assessed by COONAN, T., RALLS, K., HUDGENS, B., CYPHER, B. & BOSER, C. in July 23, 2013. There are several active conservation measures in place in order to help support the species. In 2013 only 4,001 mature specimen remained, but the population is increasing and now the annual survival rates are above 85%.
- **Etymology**: The generic name *Urocyon* means "tailed dog", from Greek *ουρά* meaning 'tail' and ancient Greek *κύων* meaning 'dog'; because of the tail which according to BAIRD has "a concealed mane of stiff hairs, without any soft fur intermixed". Its specific name is the Latin word *littoralis* meaning 'of the seashore'.

An interesting phylogenetic detail about the **Island Fox** – or rather, the genus *Urocyon* – is that whole genome sequencing (WGS) indicates that it is the most basal genus of all living canids. Fossils of their ancestors found in Kansas date to the Upper Pliocene (circa 2.6–3.6 million years ago), with some undescribed specimens dating even older. See LINDBLAD-TOH, K. *et al.* 2005. Genome sequence, comparative analysis and haplotype structure of the domestic dog. *Nature* 438: 803–819. DOI: 10.1038/nature04338 (https://dx.doi.org/10.1038%2Fnature04338)

See also: Species of previous months.
Source: Species-2025-08

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- **Wikisource** The free library
- **Wikiversity** Free learning resources
- **Wikidata** Free knowledge base
- **Incubator** For language versions in development
- **Wikifunctions** Free software functions
- **Wikivoyage** Free travel guide
- **Wikimedia Foundation** Official Wikimedia Foundation website
- **Outreach** Wikimedia outreach wiki
- **Wikimania** The International Conference
- **Wikistats** Wikimedia statistics
- **MediaWiki** Free wiki software
- **Wikitech** Wikimedia technical documentation
- **Phabricator** Issue tracker & planning tool for software projects
- **Test Wikipedia** For testing software changes
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